

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, the title has been amended.

Claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3, 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 6 and 9 have been amended to be in independent form, and thus are in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claims 2, 5 and 8 have been amended to depend from claims 3, 6 and 9, respectively, and are thus likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Title

The Office Action indicated that the title was not descriptive. The title has been amended, and applicants submit that the title, as amended, is descriptive of the claimed inventions.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,744,921 to Uchida et al. ("Uchida") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,139 to Yamamoto ("Yamamoto"). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1, 4, 7, 10 and 11, and amendment to claims 2, 5 and 8 to depend from

claims 3, 6 and 9, respectively, which have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter as discussed above.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

June 22, 2005

By

Pavan K. Agarwal

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Registration No. 43,438

Attorneys for Applicant